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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 TBILISI 001732

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR EUR DAS BRYZA AND EUR/CARC

EO 12958 DECL: 06/19/2017  
TAGS PREL, PGOV, GG  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN ACTIVE MEASURES IN GEORGIA

REF: A. TBILISI 1605 B. TBILISI 1352 C. TBILISI 1100 D. 06 TBILISI 2601 E. 06 TBILISI 2590 F. 06 TBILISI 2425 G. 06 TBILISI 2390 H. 06 T

Classified By: Ambassador John F. Tefft for reasons 1.4 (b)&(d).

Introduction and Comment

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¶1. (C) The strains between Russia and Georgia play out in leaders' statements, the Russian economic embargo, the separatist conflicts, and a r

Direct Military Attack

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¶2. (C) Probably the most notorious recent incident was the missile attack on Georgian positions in the Upper Kodori Gorge on the night of May

¶3. (C) March 11 was not the first time the Russians were believed to have conducted a bombing raid on Georgian territory. Russian planes were

Murders and Attempted Murders

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¶4. (U) On February 1, 2005 a bomb exploded in a car at the police station in Gori, the largest Georgian city close to South Ossetia, killing t

¶5. (SBU) On June 8, 2006, neighbors approached a suspicious man loitering around the home of Koba Davitashvili, a leading opposition politicis

Sabotage

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¶6. (C) On January 22, 2006, near-simultaneous explosions in the Russian region of North Ossetia ripped into natural gas pipelines running from

¶7. (C) In September 2006, the Georgian government arrested 29 activists of Igor Giorgadze's Justice Party on charges of planning an explosion

Espionage

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¶8. (SBU) Georgian authorities arrested four Russian military officers and eleven Georgians for espionage on September 27, 2006. The Georgian c

¶9. (SBU) In April 2006, a pro-Kremlin television journalist in Moscow aired recorded cellphone conversations between Givi Targamadze, chair of

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selectively edited -- were so embarrassing to Targamadze and Milinkevich that it was worth it to make them public.

Support for Separatists

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¶10. (C) The Russian government has provided direct, if at times thinly veiled, support to the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia

¶11. (C) The de facto government of Abkhazia appears to have a somewhat greater degree of independence from Moscow than does its counterpart in

Support for Minority Extremists

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¶12. (C) Georgian officials in Tbilisi and Akhalkalaki, as well as local community leaders and political activists, have confirmed that the Rus

SIPDIS the first stage of Russian base withdrawal. As the withdrawal moved ahead, disturbances in Akhalkalaki dropped off precipitously, lendin

Disinformation

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¶13. (C) It is especially difficult to nail down the origin of any of the multitude of rumors, conspiracy theories, and political speculation i

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Saakashvili, and diagnoses him as suffering from an "expansive type of paranoid dysfunction...combined with narcissist type of hysteroid person  
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